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11/28/00  
DSIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

5 Applicant: Ernst F. Schröder  
Filed: Herewith  
For: VOICE CONTROL SYSTEM WITH A MICROPHONE  
ARRAY

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

Prior to examination and calculation of fees,  
please enter the following Preliminary Amendment and the  
accompanying remarks.

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In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

25 1. (Amended) Voice control system with a  
microphone array comprising a plurality of microphones  
for converting voice commands into electrical signals,  
and with a central speech recognition unit for converting  
these electrical signals into operational commands,  
[characterized in that] wherein the microphones are  
30 distributed between different appliances which are  
connected to one another in such a way that the signals  
generated by the microphones can be transmitted to the  
central speech recognition unit.

35 2. (Amended) System according to Claim 1,  
[characterized in that] wherein the appliances are  
connected via a bidirectional network.

40 3. (Amended) System according to Claim 2,  
[characterized in that] wherein the bidirectional network  
is based on an IEEE 1394 bus.